ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Twenty-third Annual Session

—OF THE—

PEA RIVER Baptist Association,

—HELD WITH—

WOODLAND GROVE CHURCH

November 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1899.

OFFICERS

A. J. WISE, Jr., Moderator..... Victoria, Ala.
M. A. HELMS, Jr., Clerk.....Elba, Ala.
G. M. FOWLER, Treasurer.....Victoria, Ala.

The Next session of this Association will be held with Zion Chapel Church, Ten miles North of Elba, commencing Saturday before the First Sunday in November, 1900.

1899.

CLIPPER JOB OFFICE,
ELBA, ALA.

....MINUTES.....

The Pea River Baptist Association met according to adjournment with Woodland Grove Church, for its twenty-third annual session, on the 3d day of November, at 11 a. m. The appointee being absent, the alternate, J M Moore, preached the introductory sermon; text, Romans, 12:5.

The association then adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association reassembled in the house and was called to order by the former Moderator, A J Wise, Jr. After prayer by H S Nichols, the letters from the different churches were presented. W A Cumbie and W H Tew were appointed to read the letters, and the delegates' names were enrolled as follows:

Bluff Springs—W H Archer, Rolen Bryan and John Johnson.

Bethany—J H Sawyer, J L Corbet and J M Moore.

Bethsada—J M Grimes, W S McCall, A N McCall.

Clintonville—E D Fleming, G W Caylor and T F Andrews.

Damascus—C I Steward, Joe Roe.

Elba—W B Howard, Wm Brunson, J J Morris.

Hebron—J J Bradley, J H Wood, S N Tew.

Mt. Pleasant—H S Nichols, W F Nichols, B F Conner.

New Ebenezer—A J Hudson, John Short, J P Graham, J R Spurling, Willie Wilks.

New Home—J D Bradley, Dan Blair, J B Barner, W J J Smith.

New Hope—J M Falkner, Young Wilkings, Downing Willis.

Perdue—Z R Fuller, W C Phillips, James Grissit.

Shiloh—D J Lee, C A Helms, M A Helms, Sr.

Union Grove—H R Snellgrove, J W Meredith, J F Patterson.

Victoria—A J Wise, Jr, W T Everett, C C Baker.

Whitewater—T J Brooks, S R Devain, J C Devain.

Woodland Grove—C R Talbot, L B Brunson, A McKinnon.

The association then went into the election of officers. The regular order of business was dispensed with. On motion the former officers were re-elected: A J Wise, Jr, Moderator; M A Helms, Jr., Clerk, and G M Fowler, Treasurer.

The Moderator made a short talk.

Called for petitionary letters from churches desiring membership. One was presented from Perdue, the delegates' names were enrolled, and the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship to same in behalf of the association.

Appointed special committees to report during session:

On Divine Services—T J Brooks, J P Graham, together with the delegates and deacons of Woodland Grove church.

On Nominations—H S Nichols, C R Talbot, J F Patterson.

On Finance—W H Tew, Z R Fuller, J H Weed.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—Charlie Jernigan, C J Stewart, Johnnie Johnson.

On Institute Work—T J Brooks, J J Morris, J P Graham.

Invited visiting brethren to seats, and welcomed them in the association.

Received correspondence from different associations, as follows:

From New Providence—W A Cumbie and wife.

From Sardis—J W Brooks and wife.

From Newton—J W Bullard and O C Doster.

From Salem—J P Brooks.

Returned Correspondence—To the Salem: I J Johnson, J F Patterson, T J Brooks, Z R Fuller, J H Weed. To the Zion: J P Graham, A J Wise. To the Sardis: D J Lee, H S Nichols, T J Brooks, I J Johnson. To New Providence: J P Graham, A J Hudson: To the Geneva: W F Nichols, H S Nichols. To the Haw Ridge: H R Snellgrove, B F Conner, J H Sawyer, B F Andrews, A J Wise, Jr. To the Newton: W T Everette.

Committee on Divine Service reported to preach Saturday at 11 a. m. W A Crumbie.

Miscellaneous Business—Set time to meet at 8:30 a. m. and adjourn at will; meet 1:30 p. m. and adjourn at will.

Adjourned to meet Saturday morning at 8:30.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Met according to adjournment. Called to order by the Moderator. After prayer by Rev J P Graham the association resumed the work under the head of miscellaneous business.

On motion, there was a fund established, to be known as the Bullard fund, and there was a collection of $8.10 for same.

Reports of Standing Committees—The following reports were read and adopted:

HOME MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Home Missions, beg leave to make the following report: The Home board, located at Atlanta, Ga., has under its control the entire Southern States; also, California, Oregon, Cuba, Mexico, and the entire Indian population. In some of our Southern States, especially in the large cities, is a vast number of foreigners and oonsiderable destitution among our own people, and if we fail to christianize them they will teach their heathen doctrine. Until recently Mexico and Cuba were Catholic, but at present there are 3,700 Baptists. The work of the Board for last year is as follows:

Number of men employed	287
Churches and stations	1,114
Weeks of labor	10,739
Sermons preached	33,868
Prayer meetings	7,390
Baptisms	4,857
Received by letter	2,639
Total additions	7,496
Sunday schools organized	331
Teachers and pupils	17,240
Religious visits	46,610
Churches constituted	316
Houses built	64
Pages of tracts distributed	442,352
Bibles and Testaments distributed	1,779
Sunday school publications distributed	4,754,000

If we will read we will find our people not idle, but what are we doing.

Respectfully submitted, J. J. BRADLEY.

INDIGENT MINISTERS.

We, your committee, offer the following report: We know that caring for our superannuated veterans of Christ is of as much importance as any subject we foster. We are glad to see some of our churches doing something on this line. We recommend that the brethren make donations of corn, syrup and pork, and convey it to our indigent ministers, thereby showing in special manner our grateful feelings toward them. In this way most of us can assist.

H. S. NICHOLS, Chairman.

The association then took a recess of ten minutes.

Reassembled at arbor, and W A Cumbie preached to a large and orderly congregation. Text, 1 Corinthians, 1:26, 27, 28, 29.

SATURDAY EVENING.

The association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. T J Brooks.

Report on Education was read and adopted:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We, your Committee on Education, submit the following as our report: We find that the general interest of our people, as a denomination, is increasing along on this line. The past associational year has been an impartial one for the Baptist people of the State of Alabama. The Howard College of Birmingham has succeeded in lifting the indebtedness that has so long existed; and this Grand educational institution is now free to pursue its course of usefulness. The Judson Institute at Marion, Ala., and the Southeast Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute at Newton, Dale county, Alabama, have each had prosperous success during the past year, and each have opened up with bright prospects for another year. We recommend each of the above schools for our boys

and girls as being our denominational schools, worthy of our support, but we especially recommend the Southeast Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute at Newton as our denominational and associational school, and recommend that our people patronize this school. It is by education that the mind is developed and expanded. We should educate our children in the Scriptures as well as in a literary sense. We must first enlighten the people, then civilize, then we have made it possible to christianize them. We recommend the study of the Bible at home and in all our christian insjitutions. We recommend that our schools be taught and managed by christian teachers. We recommend as our denominational papers the Alabama Baptist and the Texas Baptist Herald.

J. M. TALLEY, L. P. BRUNSON, Committee.

O. C. Doster represented the Southeast Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute at Newton, and also made a very able and interesting talk on the importance of an education.

Report on Foreign Missions was read and adopted:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Foreign Missions, submit the following: We, as the people peculiarly chosen by the great Captain of our salvation to carry the glad tidings of great joy to the uttermost parts of the earth, and to whom he gave the great commission, could not with the Bible before us ignore the importance of our foreign work. And we would say, in the language of our Savior, "Lift your eyes and look on the fields, for they are already ripe unto harvest," and we would recommend that regular and liberal contributions be made to this cause. Statistics show that great things have been accomplished by our missionaries on the field, and yet there is much room for greater things to be done. We should not be content in holding our ground, but we should endeavor to advance our force to other vantage grounds.

All of which is respectfully submitted, J. J. MORRIS, Chairman.

Report on State Missions read and adopted:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on State Missions, submit the following: We find that there is an increasing interest among the brethren in the State Missions, which we are glad to note. Much good has been accomplished by State mission work. We have had the very able services of Bro. A. J. Preston the past two years as State Evangelist, whose lobors have been wonderfully blessed, and we, as an association and people, have been greatly benefited in a special way. Then, brethren, let us still contribute to the cause of State missions, and more liberally in the future than we have in the past.

Respectfully submitted, J. M. TALLEY, Chairman.

Report on Temperance read and adopted:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, ask to make the following report: We feel that our people are becoming better acquainted with the destructive power of the whiskey habit, which gives us reason to believe that ere long the mighty demon will be driven from our midst. Nevertheless, let us be watchful, for when we as a denomination stand still and wage no war against the whiskey traffickers, they as great monsters will rise up against us and try to destroy us as a denomination, as people, as a government, rifle our homes, make widows and orphans, fill graves with drunkards and hell with souls, where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. Brethren, be thou, therefore, faithful unto death that ye may receive the crown of life. W. J. EVERETTE,

J. M. MOORE.

Report on Orphanage read and adopted:

REPORT ON ORPHANAGE.

There is nothing that appeals nearer the hearts and sympathies of our common sense people than that of raising, educating and training of the orphans, who are helpless or dependent. The Baptist Orphan Home, located at Evergreen, Ala., under the management of J. W. Steward, is a place where the child that has no chance can be sent and receive a first-class bringing up. There are 60 children in the Home at present. Those children are educated so as to be able to make worthy and useful citizens. There is a farm and dairy in connection with the Home, and the larger ones are taught to work when out of school. The institution is kept up by the liberalities of our Baptist people. Will you not help? Respectfully submitted, JAMES STANTON.

Report on Nominations read and adopted:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, submit the following: We appoint, to preach the introductory sermon at next session: H. S. Nichols, and J. J. Johnson, alternate; as executive committee, C. R. Talbot, W. F. Nichols, W. H. Archer, E. D. Fleming, and M. A. Helms. We recommend that the next session of the Association be held with Zion Chapel church.

H. S. NICHOLS, Chairman.

Report on Deceased Ministers and Deacons read and adopted:

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

We, your committee, are grieved to say that since the last session of this body the hand of Providence has removed from our midst our beloved brother, Z. Blackman. CHARLIE JERNIGAN, Chairman.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Short talks by Elders J W Brooks and W H Cumbie on Institute work.

The Moderator appointed a committee on Institute work.

Adjourned to meet Sabbath morning at 9 a, m.

SABBATH MORNING.

The association met according to adjournment, and was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by W A Cumbie.

On motion, article 10, in order of business, was revised so as to read thus, "Report of Committee on Missions."

Appointed standing committees to report at next session. [See committees.]

Report on Institute work was read and adopted:

The Moderator appointed J J Morris to correspond with Bro. Anderson, asking him to hold an Institute somewhere in the bounds of the Pea River association.

On motion, Rev W A Cumbie was requested to reproduce the sermon which he preached Saturday, the 4th of November, at 11 a. m., and have it published in the Elba Clipper and printed in pamphlet form, and sell the pamphlets at 50 cents apiece, the money to be used, first, to pay expense, and, second, for missions.

On motion, the time of the meeting of the association was changed to meet Saturday before the first Sunday in November, and to hold Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

ORDAINED MINISTERS PRESENT.

W A Cumbie, J W Brooks, T J Brooks, Jesse M Rowe, J W Bullard, I J Johnson, J M Tally, J M Moore, H S Nichols, J P Graham.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH WITH PROOF TEXTS.

1. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.—I. John, 5:7.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—II. Timothy, 3:16, 17.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.—Ephesians, 1:4, 5.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.—Romans, 6:23.

5. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.—John, 6:44; Rom. 11:6; Ephesians, 2;1, 9.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.—II. Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13, 14.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.—John, 6:37; II, Tim. 1:9.

8. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.—John 10:28, 30.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects for these ordinances; and that immersion only is baptism.—Colos. 2:12; Acts 8:38.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment.—Job 19:26, 27.

11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.—Matthew 25:46.

12. We believe that no person has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.—I. Timothy 4:50; 5:22.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Introductory sermon.
3. Enrollment of Delegates.
4. Election of officers.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Appoint special Committees—1, Devotional; 2, Nominations; 3, Finance; 4, Deceased Ministers and Deacons; 5, Institute work.
7. Receive Correspondents.
8. Appoint Correspondents.
9. Miscellaneous Business.
10. Report of Standing Committees—1, Missions; 2, Education; 3, Temperance; 4, Indigent Ministers; 5, Sabbath Schools; 6, Orphanage; 7, Publications; 8, Executive Committee.
11. Report of Special Committees.
12. Report of Treasurer.
13. Appoint Standing Committees.
14. Miscellaneous Business.

On motion, the executive committee was authorized to appoint a chorister to conduct the music at next session.

REPORT ON INSTITUTE WORK.

We, your Committee on Institute work, offer the following report: That the Pea River Association organize and maintain an Institute for the ministry of the Pea River Association, to be held under the auspices of the Institute board, and that we invite the Sardis and Geneva Associations to co-operate with the Pea River Association in Institute work. Also that a committee be appointed to correspond with Bro. Anderson of Nubury, Ala., asking him to give us a date some time in December for holding the first meeting, which will be held at Elba.

T. J. BROOKS.

Finance report read and adopted:

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

State Mlssions	$ 6 75.
Home Missions	5 30.
Foreign Missions	2 10.
Orphans' Home	3 05.
Minutes	19 30.
Total	$49 72.

All of which has been turned over to the treasurer.

Treasurer's report read and adopted:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received of Finance Committee for Minures	$19 30.
Orphanage	3 05.
State Missions	6 75.
Home Missions	5 30.
Foreign Missions	2 10.
Bullard Fund	8 15.
Total	$44 65.
By Disbursement to Clerk for Minutes	$19 50.
To J. W. Bullard	8 15.
Total	$27 45.
Balance on hand	$17 20.

G. M. FOWLER, Treasurer.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That the third resolution in former minutes remain in the minutes of this session.

Resolved, That the Executive committee appointed at this session be empowered to select a minister to preach the introductory sermon at next session at their pleasure.—T. J. Brooks.

Resolved, That our venerable brother, J. W. Bullard, may live in the memory of the Pea River Association.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the members of this church, and citizens of this community for their kind and generous hospitality extended during our stay in their midst.—J. F. Patterson.

The following are standing committees, to report at next session:

Missions—J. P. Graham, J. J. Bradley, H. S. Nichols.
Education—G. W. Caylor, A. J. Marsh, John Weed.
Sabbath School—W. B. Howard, Z. R. Fuller, G. H. Thigpen.
Orphanage—J. J. Morris, J. J. Moore, J. W. Kenington.
Publications—J. F. Patterson, C. O. Helms, C. W. Simmons.

Divine services by Elder J W Brooks; text, Luke 13:20, 21.

The association then adjourned, to meet with Zion Chapel church, ten miles north of Elba, on Saturday before the first Sunday in November, 1900.

A. J. WISE, Moderator.
M. A. HELMS, JR., Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POSTOFFICE.	CLERKS.	POSTOFFICE.	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dism'd by Letter.	Excommunicated.	Dead	Total Memb'ship.	Missions	Minutes	Orphanage	Preach'g Sabbath.
Bluff Springs	Jno. A Jones	Henderson	C O H Martin	Rodney	7			3	1		47		$ 50	$ 25	2
Bethsada	H S Nichols	Eta	Jesse L McCall	Marl				2	1		17		50		1
Bethany	B T Newton	Enterprise	J L Corbit	Brockton	2	4	1	1	3		85		1 55		1
Concord	J W Reynolds		Joe Jernigan	Perdue				1			13	$1 00	40		1
Clintonville	J F Register	Geneva	G W Caylor	Clintonville				3	2		50		75		4
Damascus	Bro. Sansbury	Daleville	W H Segraves	Damascus	1	1		3	4	1	115		1 35	1 90	3
Elba													1 50		
Hebron	J M Loflin	Henderson	W E Fuller	Perdue	7	4		21	4		95		1 15		3
Mt. Pleasant	J F Register	Geneva	W H Tew	Eta	7	5		1		2	176		2 00		2
New Ebenezar	W A Cumbie	Bullock	J R Spurlin	Curtis	6	3		3	2		66	1 45	1 40	2 45	1
New Hope													1 30	25	
New Home	J M Talley	Dot	J D B Harper	Goodman							60		1 00		4
Perdue	I J Johnson	Rodney	Z R Fuller	Perdue							12	95	50		4
Shiloh	I J Johnson	Rodney	C O Helms	Parker	1			11			32	30	50		3
Union Grove	T J Brooks	Victoria	J W Merdith	Enterprise	6	2			1		34		70		2
Victoria	I J Johnson	Rodney	A J Wiso, Jr	Victoria				6		1	175		30		1
White Water	J M Talley	Dot	F M Reeves	Elba		2		5	3	1	111	2 50	1 25		1
Woodland Grove	I J Johnson	Rodney	A Mc Kinnon	Brunson	1	7				1	60		1 05		2
Zion Chapel	J M Moore	Brockton	W J Wilks	Rodney	6	5		2	1	1	59	1 70	1 00		4

W J Spurlin paid to the Clerk $2 00 for W J Bullard.